

CLAIM LISTING

Claims 1-2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (previously presented). The printing system of claim 25, wherein said storage device is configured to store a plurality of rasterized print jobs generated by a plurality of image producing devices, said plurality of image producing devices being in communication with the network.

Claim 4 (previously presented). The printing system of claim 25, further comprising one or more print job generators, each print job generator being configured to generate a respective print job, said print job generators being in communication with the network.

Claims 5-7 (canceled).

Claims 8 (withdrawn). An image producing device comprising a processor with software configured to receive an unrasterized version of a print job and, in response, retrieve a rasterized version of the print job from a storage device external to said image producing device.

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (withdrawn). The image producing device of claim 8, wherein said software on said processor is configured to generate instructions relating to one or more print jobs and to send said instructions to at least one of an external storage device and/or another image producing device, through a network.

Claim 11 (withdrawn). The image producing device of claim 8, wherein said processor is configured to merge two separate print jobs into a single print job, where at least one of said print jobs is received from an external storage device.

Claim 12 (withdrawn). The method of claim 30, further comprising:

1 determining that the print job is divided among multiple image producing
2 devices; and
3 sending the print job to multiple image producing devices.

4 Claim 13 (withdrawn). The method of claim 12 further comprising sending the
5 print job to an external storage device with an instruction for an image producing
6 device to execute the print job.

7 Claim 14 (withdrawn). The method of claim 12 further comprising dividing the
8 print job into segments for execution in multiple steps.

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10 Claim 15 (withdrawn). A method for use in creating an image on print media
11 said method comprising the steps of:
12 receiving, for a first time, an unrasterized print job from a device on a network;
13 processing said unrasterized print job into a rasterized print job;
14 sending the rasterized print job to an external storage device;
15 retrieving, for a first time, the rasterized print job from the external storage
16 device;
17 receiving, for a second time, the unrasterized print job;
18 retrieving, for a second time, the rasterized print job from the external storage
19 device; and
20 generating an image from said rasterized print job using an image producing
21 device.

22 Claims 16-18 (cancelled).

23 Claim 19 (withdrawn). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of
24 receiving an instruction to retrieve the print job from the external storage device.

25 Claim 20 (withdrawn). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of
determining whether the print job is stored on the external storage device in
rasterized form by checking a directory to determine whether the rasterized print job
is stored on the external storage device.

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2 Claim 21 (withdrawn). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of
3 sending the rasterized print job to a plurality of image producing devices.

4 Claim 22 (withdrawn). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of
5 sending data to at least the external storage device and/or a second image
6 producing device.

7 Claim 23 (cancelled).
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9 Claim 24 (canceled).
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11 Claim 25 (previously presented). A printing system, comprising:
12 a storage device in communication with a network; and
13 a server in communication with the network, the server configured to:
14 receive an unrasterized version of a given print job from the network;
15 and
16 in response to receiving the print job, search the storage device to
17 determine whether a rasterized version of the given print job is stored on the
18 storage device.

19 Claim 26 (previously presented). The printing system of claim 25, further
20 comprising a print engine in communication with the network, wherein the server is
21 configured to send the rasterized version of the given print job to the print engine.

22 Claim 27 (previously presented). A printing system, comprising:
23 means for receiving an unrasterized version of a print job from a network;
24 means for determining whether a rasterized version of the print job is stored
25 on a storage means connected to the network;
means for retrieving the rasterized version of the print job from the storage
means in response to determining that the rasterized version is stored;
means for converting the unrasterized print job into rasterized format in
response to determining that no rasterized version is stored; and

1 means for sending the rasterized print job to a means for printing an image
2 from the rasterized print job.

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4 Claim 28 (previously presented). The printing system of claim 27, further
5 comprising means for processing the stored rasterized version of the print job into a
6 new rasterized print job.

7 Claim 29 (previously presented). The printing system of claim 27, further
8 comprising:

9 means for determining whether the rasterized version of the print job is
10 completely rasterized; and

11 means for completing rasterization of the print job in response to determining
12 that the print job is not completely rasterized.

13 Claim 30 (previously presented). A printing method, comprising:

14 receiving an unrasterized version of a print job;

15 in response to receiving, determining whether a rasterized version of the print
16 job is stored on a storage device;

17 retrieving the rasterized version of the print job from the storage device in
18 response to determining that the rasterized version is stored;

19 converting the unrasterized print job into rasterized format in response to
20 determining that no rasterized version is stored; and

21 printing an image from the rasterized print job.

22 Claim 31 (previously presented). The method of claim 30, further comprising
23 processing the stored rasterized version of the print job into a new rasterized print
24 job.

25 Claim 32 (previously presented). The method of claim 30, further comprising:

determining whether the rasterized version of the print job is completely
rasterized; and

completing rasterization of the print job in response to determining that the
print job is not completely rasterized.

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2 Claim 33 (previously presented). A system for use in printing an image,
3 comprising:
4 a network;
5 a storage device in communication with the network;
6 a first processor in communication with the network and configured to:
7 generate an unrasterized version of a print job; and
8 transmit the unrasterized version of the print job over the network;
9 and
10 a second processor in communication with the network and configured to:
11 receive the unrasterized version of the print job from the network; and
12 in response to receiving the unrasterized version of the print job,
13 determine whether a rasterized version of the print job is available on the
14 storage device.
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